

13 SEP 1945

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C.S.D.I.O.F.(U.K.)
U.L.R. 1723.
13 Sep 45

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Report on information obtained from PT CS/2294, 33 October

Late John Letter of Dr. VII R.E.
captured. RETRIEVED nr SUDILUCUM,
SCILIS-IC, 22 May 45.

Dr. VII R.E.
DB 14. Jan '07
POB Mittweida,
Saxony, Germany

Interrogation
Report contains info on
RSHA ANT VII

(IDIOLOGICAL RESEARCH)

APR 3 1947

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2x-2 PFS-44

10th NSM

13 Sep 45
XARZ-15918

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13 SEP 1945

REPORTS ON
BOOKS

once, the Propagandaministerium and the Dienststelle ROSENBERG (Section, "Überstaatliche Mächte"). The reports which were asked for by Amt III (who only forwarded material with which they, through lack of qualified readers, could not deal themselves), were sent on by Amtschef VII to Ostuf von KILPINSKI, who was in charge of the sub-dept of Amt III concerned with literature and the Press. If the Dienststelle ROSENBERG requested a report, which happened during P.'s term of duty only once, this had to be sent to Dienstleiter KILPINSKI. P. declares that there was no regular interchange of ideas between Amt VII and either of the above-mentioned departments, which jealously kept their lives aloof.

52. P. relates that 80% of the material submitted for scrutiny was absolutely valueless. Consequently Amt VII usually recommended the withdrawal from public sale of material already printed, or non-publication of that which was still in manuscript form. The "works" produced were mainly polemical trash written by unscrupulous dilettantes, or pure propaganda of the lowest sort which contained no useful information and was not based upon original sources. In many cases, however, Amt III took no notice of Amt VII's recommendations, although in some instances publication could be prevented.

53. The trouble was that Amt III and KILPINSKI in particular did not fully accept Amt VII's objective criteria of judgment. Nor did the Propagandaministerium. When VII B 1 were approached by the latter for an opinion on a costly second edition of TALLID's "Freemasonry and Jewry in GERMANY", and on account of its many inaccuracies, advised against it, their recommendation was passed over and the book was reprinted with all its mistakes and appeared on the market.

54. At times, "Memoranda" reached Amt VII from cranks, mystery-mongers and professional sensationalists; critical reports on such memoranda were then submitted by the Amt, but were often ignored.

55. The Masonic Referat had at its disposal in the library the complete membership lists of Lodges in GERMANY and a card-index compiled from this source of information. From this card-index, information was made available on demand to Party or SD branches. In general, Freemasons could become members of the Party, but were not allowed to hold official posts. Furthermore, the Referat compiled and issued approximately every two months a summary of information received; this was distributed in 150 copies. This summary was introduced whilst SLA was still in command. Towards the end, the Referat spent much time in setting up the Freemasonry Library at its evacuated HQ (SCHLESSEL). At the same time Eastuf RICHARD was made responsible for the Library of Witchcraft and Sorcery, also at SCHLESSEL. As related in para 21, many Masonic books were shifted to DEUTSCH-GASSE in 44 for the sole use of GOETSCHE and his assistant RICHARD.

56. The Freemasonry Referat was, according to P., one of the few sub-depts of Amt VII which were represented in German-occupied territories. Soon after the fall of FRANCE in 40, Ostuf STÜLER, who had entered the Referat in 33, became liaison officer between VII B 1 and the SAS FLENNERICH, Staff KVOCHEN. STÜLER was sent to FRANCE to investigate French Masonic communities, their history and the extent to which they had penetrated into French public life. He despatched

-INDEX
LIBRARY

MASONRY
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over

MASONRY
IGATED

a number of books and brochures, and, at intervals, long reports which were all signed by MOOREN. MOOREN was killed in action at the beginning of Sep 44 and his successor at the 363 PRINTERION was Gustaf PLATZ who had, until then, been partly employed in the Masonic Archives (VII C 1). He was sent to PLATZ in spring 44, and worked at first under STUBER, who introduced him to investigation of Freemasonry and International Jerry.

INFORMER:

57. It was then that he came into contact with KROCHEN's chief French informer on Freemasonry, a certain COSTON. After the invasion of FRANCE by the Allied Forces, WENZEL was for a short time employed on general SO duties in KOLICZKY, on which P. can give no further details. Then WENZEL returned to GELMERT and arranged, apparently on his own initiative, for COSTON's move to the REICH. In late autumn 44 COSTON moved to WORS with his family and four of his informers. When P. heard of this move, he contacted at once Antscher IV, Graf Gentl & Pol MULLER, asking for instructions. MULLER replied that he had no interest whatever in COSTON and his Masonic researches, and that P. should keep him. Thereupon P. got into touch with KELLERBRUNNER, and on his orders evacuated COSTON and his entourage with WENZEL in charge to PUTZER (PZO) in the KELLERBRUNNER (OSGS 4416/S.10/6463). Since beginning 45, however, P. lost sight of WENZEL and COSTON. (For COSTON, see STUBER and WENZEL in Appendix 3).

TIONS

53. The following publications on the history of Freemasonry were issued under the aegis of Amt VII since 42, and were brought out by the "NORDLIND Verlag":-

- (i) Stubai Dr Hans SCHICK: "Die älteren Rosenkreuzer", a study of the Rosicrucian movement in GERMANY during the seventeenth century.
- (ii) Dr Adolf ROSSENG: "Freimaurerei und Politik im Zeitalter der französischen Revolution".
- (iii) Dr Heinz GÜLLER: "Das Wirken der Freimaurerei in GERMANY 1806/07".
- (iv) Dr Hans RUGGEMANN: "Die Freimaurerei und die europäischen Dynastien".

D

59. The "HOCHLAND Verlag", which was founded as a small publishing firm for Nazi literature about 37/38, was later given the copyright of all publications prepared or recommended by List VII. Its director was Ostufel MISCHE, its manager Ostuf SCHULKE, both 100% Nazi. Its only professional reader was P., who emphasizes that the firm was not controlled by the RSHA or any of its depts, but exclusively by the SS Verwaltungs- und Wirtschaftslit.

VII B 2 : JERRY

60. This sub-dept too made extensive use of VII A 1 and VII A 2, which supplied the basic material for their work. P/ admits that he took little interest in the activities of VII B 2, perhaps owing to the fact that he found it rather difficult to get on with the Referent, Master Dr Phil ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~.

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73.

The staff of VII 2 5 was very small. After Rascher (also a former Roman Catholic priest) had left in 43 owing to differences with Stubai, VII 2 1, it consisted only of SCHICK and a female secretary whose name P. cannot remember. SCHICK was a most assiduous worker who, besides his administrative and research obligations, took care of the section of the Library on Modern German History and read all historical periodicals which were still published. Furthermore he prepared an extensive bibliography of German Liberalism and wrote a book on the Rosierucians (see para 53).

VII 5 6 OTHER POLITICAL OPINIONS

74.

P. knows little about the work of this sub-dept. It was supposed to investigate the ideologies and political methods of pacifist, separatist and reactionary movements and of the various groups of emigrants from GERMANY. In collaboration with VI 1 1 (Library) it collected all available books, periodicals and newspaper cuttings dealing with these subjects.

75.

VII 5 6 was closed down at the beginning of 43 owing to the lack of qualified staff; after its first Acting Referent Oskar MUEHLER had been detached to TRUMP already in 40, and his successor, Oskar KUEHN, had been sent to SCHLICK as supervisor.

MUEHLER

VII 3 - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH TASKS

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76.

The group VII 3 comprised three sub-depts whose work involved "wissenschaftliche Sonderaufträge" ("Special Research Tasks"). Under it came the Masonic Archives (VII 3 1), the collection of exhibits concerning Masonic rites (VII 3 2) and the so-called "Z"-Referat which dealt with witchcraft. Of all these three sub-departments P. can give a fairly complete picture.

VII 3 1 : MASONIC ARCHIVES

77.

In Feb 37 SLI entrusted P. with the setting-up of these archives. P. had to collect, re-arrange and file the archives of the German Lodges which had been confiscated by the SD. The archives which he took into his custody were not quite complete, as certain parts had remained with local SD branches and police offices where they were used for investigation purposes.

78.

A first scrutiny of the material proved that it was of considerable historical value and deserved expert treatment. As a historian P. took a great interest in it and began to reconstruct the archives of the individual Lodges, of which there were approximately 300.

79.

P. states that this task appeared almost unsurmountable, the more so since he had to do all the work himself, and was only at a comparatively late stage given a small staff of unqualified assistants. These included Stubai BRUNN (who, after evacuation of the Archives to OLFENSDORF had to take over the administration of that centre), Oskar BILLEN (who was merely a clerk and left at the end of 43), and Dr. RIECKMANN (who was entirely taken up with writing his book on history (see para 53) and had no knowledge whatever of archive matters).

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

97. BLUK (fnu) Krim Rat Referent Amt V (morals) 1945

lives BERLIN born 1903 1.75 m stocky thin blond hair
round face large pointed nose stutters wears glasses

98. ^H MEHLST. UELBL (fnu) ^{CIT: GERMANY} Stubaf ^{Referent in charge} Referent Amt IV (radio) until 1945

lives BERLIN born 1906 1.70 m slender blond hair
oval face large pointed nose

Misc: Married.

Career: With radio section RSHA since 1935.

99. MEIER (fnu) Stubaf Gruppenleiter Amt II (civil service ratings, salaries) 1937 until beg 1945.

lives BERLIN born 1903 1.73 m strong build black hair
oval face stutters

Career: Admin career in Stapo.

100. MERBACH (fnu) O/Stuf In charge of SD Amt II (motor pool)

lives BERLIN born 1912 1.75 m strong build brown hair
oval face large pointed nose

Misc: Married.

101. ^H MILDNER, Rudolf ^{CIT: GERMANY} Standf Obst d Pol KdS VIENNA and Lower Austria until Apr 45

last address LINZ born 1905 in Silesia 1.84 m strong build
black hair round face large wide nose

Misc: ^{occ} Lawyer. Married; 3 children. Wife's last address SALZBURG.

Career: Until end of 1943 Stapo Leiter BREMEN. Beg 1944 BdS Denmark. Summer 1944 Amt IV. End 1944 KdS VIENNA..

102. ^H MUEHLER, Rolf ^{CIT: GERMANY} Stubaf Gruppenleiter Amt VII 1944 until Apr 45

last address BERLIN, Emserstr 11/12 born 1909 1.80 m strong build
black hair round face large nose

Misc: Married.

Career: before 1942 Gruppenleiter in Amt VII. 1942 beg 44 KdS MARSEILLE, France.

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W. SH. X2-PTS. 44

XARZ-15913

Doc. 3 Fol. 5

11 July 1945

USFET Interrogation of O/Stufat. Arthur SCHEIDLER

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